

set for this response is January 17, 2003. It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. However, should the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determine that any fee is required, please charge the required fee(s) to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 17 and 18 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 such that the claims reads as follows:

17. (Twice Amended) An isolated estrogen receptor- $\beta$  comprising a sequence depicted in Figure 4, SEQ ID. NO:2.

18. (Amended) An isolated estrogen receptor- $\beta$  comprising amino acids 1-45 of the sequence depicted in Figure 4, SEQ ID NO:2.

**REMARKS**

Claims 17 to 41 are pending in the application. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claims 17 and 18 can be found at page 2, lines 10-15; page 2, line 20 to page 3 lines 2; page 6, lines 9-10; page 20